



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2013

Contact: Lisa Richardson, 213-361-6980

Email: lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov

Contact: Lorenza Munoz 213-458-6279

Email: lmunoz@bos.lacounty.gov

Statement on the Deaths of 19 Arizona Firefighters; County Flags Lowered to Half Staff

Earlier today I ordered flags on all Los Angeles County buildings to be lowered to half staff as we grieve the loss of 19 firefighters killed in the wildfire near Yarnell, Ariz. this Sunday. The loss is devastating for the residents of Yarnell, the state of Arizona and the entire nation. Here in Los Angeles County we are particularly grieved by the loss of Kevin Woyjeck, the son of Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Joe Woyjeck.

Kevin, 21, was from Seal Beach and member of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew — an elite unit that often hiked for miles to put themselves between people, property and fires.

In Southern California, we are all too familiar with the destruction and heartache that wildfires can cause, but the loss of life in this instance is truly staggering. This is the deadliest wildfire since 1933, when 25 firefighters were killed battling a fire in Griffith Park and not since 9/11 have we lost so many brave first responders at one time.

Again we are reminded of the sacrifices made by those who, day in and day out put their lives on the line for us all. We all know how brave these firefighters are and we are so appreciative of their hard work. We honor those who are lost and keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

####